Imposing QRs on Cheap Imports

115. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to impose Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) to bar import of cheap products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the import of cheap products are directly affecting the domestic industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether amendments to the Foreign Trade Development and Regulation Act would be made to check the inflow of items which can hit domestic firms; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) As a Member of WTO, it is not open to any country to impose Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) on goods imported from other countries. Any domestic concern arising out cf imports are addressed by appropriate action under provisions of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1994, the Agreement on Safeguards and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures of the WTO.

Government is monitoring import of certain sensitive items on monthly basis. As per the import data available with the Government for the period April-December, 2007, import of these items have increased by 11.1% compared to the corresponding period of last year, indicating no unusual surge in imports.

A proposal is there to amend Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 to incorporate an enabling provision to impose Quantitative Restrictions on imports as a safeguard measure.

Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor

116. SHRIMATI SUPRTYASULE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor will take its shape with the project work likely to begin in January, 2008;

(b) if so, what will be the total cost of expenditure involved in this corridor projects;

(c) what is the period by when the projects is likely to be completed;

(d) whether any detailed report in this regard has been prepared;

(e) whether any foreign country will be involved in this project; and

*(f) what are the States being covered under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Project was approved 'in principle' by

Govt. of India in August, 2007. The 'Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Ltd. (DMICDC)' was incorporated on January 7,2008. A project Management Consultant has been appointed. The work of selection of consultants for preparation of Detailed Master Plans for the Industrial Regions in the six states has been initiated.

(b) It was estimated at the time of preparation of the Draft Concept Paper that the development of the envisaged industrial nodes with all infrastructure would involve a public and private investment of about US $90 billion.

(c) The Master Plan Reports are envisaged to be completed by March 2009 which would it*er-alia* include specific implementable projects identified for development alongwith time frames.

(d) A concept paper on DMIC Project has been prepared.

(e) A MoU was signed in December 2006 between the Governments of India and Japan to develop the project concept and an India Japan Joint Task Force was set up. The Task Force has met four times.

(f) Six States are covered under the project—Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Allotment of agricultural land for SEZs

117. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how much agricultural land has so far been allotted/utilized for acquired by State Governments for setting up SEZs, for projects approved by Central Government, indicating approximate loss of agriculture production and displacement of farmers;

(b) whether Government is in a position to state what will be the loss by way of taxes, duties, etc. to Central Government/State Governments on account of exemption given to SEZs during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government will also ensure that legitimate rights of people are not neglected anywhere in the country while undertaking tasks of building industrial and manufacturing strengths, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Aproposal are granted to only those proposals which are duly recommended by the concerned State Governments. All State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition for Special Economic Zones, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land, then single crop land and if perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ, State Governments have also been informed that Board of Approval (BcA) will not consider any proposal of setting up of SEZ if the State Governments have carried out or propose to carrry out compulsory acquisition after 5th April, 2007. Since the coming into force of the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005 and Special Economic Zone Rules, 2006 formal approvals have been granted for setting up of 43? Special Economic Zones (SEZs) over an area of 60168 hectares. Out of these, 97 approvals are for SEZs to be set up